The Short Story in East Asia and Beyond
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East Asian Languages and Literatures, University of Notre Dame
First offered as an ExEAS course at Columbia University in Spring 2003

Course Description
This course introduces students to short stories by 20th-century writers in China, Taiwan, Korea, Japan, and the East Asian diasporas. The goals of the course are to examine the intertwined modern histories of East Asian nation-states, investigate the short story as a literary genre, and explore critical concepts of literary and cultural identity studies. The stories will be read in conjunction with critical essays on nation, gender, and the short story with particular attention to the narrative strategies of the authors. Reading the stories both in terms of the cultural and ideological contexts in which they were written and as material artifacts available to us in English today helps to problematize the meanings of “Chinese,” “Japanese,” or “Korean” in East Asia and beyond. Ultimately, this course will provide students with the conceptual framework and vocabulary to interrogate gender, race, and nationality as socially constructed categories.

All readings are in English; no prior knowledge of Asia is presumed.

Required Texts
1. Course Pack

Required books may be purchased at Hammes Bookstore. The Course Pack is available at the Copy Center on the second floor of Decio Hall.

Cost of books: approximately $110. The course pack is about $35, *A Writer’s Reference* under $45, *M. Butterfly* and *Comfort Woman* each under $15.

Course Expectations
1. Active class participation
2. Common sense in dealing with hindrances
3. Web postings
4. Group presentation and handout on a critical essay
5. Midterm exam
6. Final exam
7. Critical analysis paper (8-10 pages)

*The ultimate aim of this course is to help students advance their critical thinking and writing skills. In order for students to succeed, they will need to prepare sufficiently so as to be able to*
• participate actively and congenially in discussion
• complete assignments according to the guidelines provided

*If you miss class, contact a classmate to catch up on notes and announcements.
E-mail addresses of two classmates who are willing to share their notes with you:

• ______________________________
• ______________________________

*Students are expected to post a memo at least once a week on the course website. Web-memos will not be graded individually but will count toward class participation.

To access the course website, scroll down at the “Popular Sites” bar on the University homepage to “WebCT.” You will need to enter your AFS ID number and the password you use for e-mail. Click first on the course number (in blue) to enter the course website, and then on “Discussions” to post memos.

*The group presentation is graded on content, self-presentation, handout, and web question (to be submitted to instructor a week in advance). Students will be asked to sign up for a critical essay in groups of two or three, depending on the length of the essay. Students must meet with instructor one week in advance of the presentation, having prepared a rough draft of the handout.

*The midterm and final exams are take-home. Topics will be distributed in class a couple of days before an exam is due. The exam will include ten identification questions and a choice of two essays out of several possibilities. Each essay should be approximately one page long, typed (300-500 words).

*Paper topics will be distributed in class the week that paper proposals are due. Proposals are due as e-mail attachments (in Microsoft Office format) and will be returned with feedback within 72 hours. Contact the instructor if you do not receive comments. Paper drafts must be submitted as hard copy. Rough drafts will be graded and returned with comments during paper conferences. However, only rewrites will count toward the final grade.

*If you feel that something about the classroom environment hampers your intellectual development in any way, big or small, please alert the instructor as soon as possible. You may visit during office hours, or you may wish to drop off an anonymous note. I will do my best to respond constructively to your concerns.

Evaluation
The final grade is broken down as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical analysis paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class participation, web postings, group presentation</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Time Management
1. The reading load in this class has been kept fairly light in order to allow you ample time to think, analyze, and write. Please keep up with the schedule so as to allow for productive discussion in class.
2. All due dates are indicated in the syllabus, so plan ahead. No extensions will be granted for paper proposals, drafts, and final versions without a doctor’s note or equivalent.

PROVISIONAL CLASS SCHEDULE

Introduction: The Short Story and its Dominance in the Modern East Asian Literary Scene

August 26 (T)
1. Overview of course (Asian history, trip to copy center)
   ▶ purchase coursepack by Friday, August 29

August 28 (Th)
2. The history of the short story in East Asia
   ▶ start reading ahead for next week’s discussion

September 2 (T)
3. Some parameters of the short story

September 4 (Th)
4. The short story as literary genre

September 9 (T)
5. Writing workshop i—how to write a critical analysis paper
►bring A Writer’s Reference to class

I. Imagined Communities, National Identity, and Diasporas

September 11 (Th)
5. The constructed nature of national and racial identities

September 16 (T)
6. Tradition as an ideological construct

September 18 (Th)
7. Border crossings then and now
September 23 (T)
8. Homelands, diasporas, ethnic identity
Umezawa, Rui. “Symbiosis.” In *Descant* 89, 26:2 (Summer 1995), 180-84.

II. Orientalism and the Exoticization of Asians

September 25 (Th)
9. The Near and Far Easts as Europe’s Other

September 30 (T)
10. Critiquing Said

October 2 (Th)
11. Writing workshop ii—how to approach an essay exam

October 7 (T)
12. Midterm discussion: nation, cultural identity, and literary representation
►Take-home exam due Friday, October 11 at 5:00 p.m.

October 9 (Th)
13. No class meeting—start reading ahead for discussion on *M. Butterfly*

October 14 (T)
14. Race, gender, and sexuality in East-West relations
III. War, Imperialism, and Pan-Asianism

October 16 (Th)
15. War in twentieth-century East Asia
Chatman. Excerpt from “Theme and Ideology.” In Reading Narrative Fiction, 273-80.

October 18-26 Fall Break—no class

October 28 (T)
17. Western imperialism and East Asian migration in the 19th and 20th centuries

October 30 (Th)
18. Japanese imperialism and Pan-Asianism
Paper Proposal due Thursday, October 30 as a Microsoft Office 2000 or 2001 file

November 4 (T)
19. Contemporary tensions in East Asia
IV. The Desiring Male Gaze and the Objectification of Women

November 6 (Th)
20. No class meeting—read ahead for next class

November 11 (T)
21. Masculinity, femininity, and desire

V. The Female Counter-Gaze: Internalization and Resistance

November 13 (Th)
22. Theorizing the desiring male gaze

Critical Analysis Paper due Friday, November 14 at 5:00 p.m. (hard copy only)

November 18 (T)
23. Critiquing psychoanalytic formulations of the male gaze

November 20 (Th)
24. No class meeting—mandatory paper conferences W Th F (15 minutes per student)

November 25 (T)
25. Female protagonists and their responses to male domination


November 27 (Th)
Thanksgiving—no class

December 2 (T)
26. Female protagonists and their responses to male domination, cont.

December 4 (Th)
27. No class meeting—read ahead for discussion on Comfort Woman
►Optional revision of Critical Analysis Paper due Friday, December 5 at 5:00 p.m. (hard copy only)

December 10 (T)
28. Final discussion on gender, race, and national identity
►Optional Exam Review Session Thursday, December 12 (time TBA, refreshments served)
►Take-home Final Exam due Thursday, December 18 at 12:30 p.m. (hard copy only)